DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Reviews the report on the Administration of the Forest Department for the year 1937-38.

READ—

The report on the Administration of the Forest Department in Mysore for the year 1937-38 received from the Chief Conservator of Forests in Mysore, with his letter No. Pr. 71 of 1937-38, dated 7—10th October 1938.

ORDER No. G. 6628-48—FT. 98-38-4, DATED BANGALORE, THE 7TH JANUARY 1939.

Recorded.

2. *Control.*—*Rajasevasakta* Mr. M. Machaya, B.A. (Oxon.), continued to be in charge of the Forest Department during the year under review and Mr. C. Abdul Jabbar, B.A., as Conservator of Forests, Shimoga Circle.

3. *Area of State Forests.*—At the close of the year under review the total area of State Forests and Plantations was 3,695·97 square miles and that of reserved lands 237·51 square miles.

4. *Reservation and Settlement.*—Including 14 blocks notified under Section 4 of the Mysore Forest Act, the number of blocks that had to be settled was 27. Of these, 13 blocks were settled under Section 17, leaving 14 blocks awaiting settlement at the close of the year. Forest settlement work requires to be more promptly dealt with as also the disposal of reservation proposals.

5. *Minor Forests and Village Forests.*—The extent of Minor and Village Forests remained practically the same as in the previous year. The revised rules issued with Government Order No. G. 7228-39—Ft. 295-38-3, dated 7th March 1938, which are expected to remove the existing defects in the management of Village Forests and to ensure better co-operation between the Revenue and Forest Departments will, it is hoped, lead to the improvement and conservation of this class of forests.

6. *Cutting and Maintenance of Demarcation Lines.*—The length of permanent demarcation lines cut during the year was 143 miles, 2 furlongs and 150 yards and that of old lines repaired was 142 miles, while 5,963 miles and 3 furlongs of demarcation lines were recleared in connection with fire protection.

7. *Working Plans.*—The drafting of the timber working plan report of four of the important forests of the Bhadravati Division comprising an area of 77·95 square miles and the field work for the revision of the working plans of the State and Minor forests lying on either side of the Anandapuram-Sagar Railway line comprising an area of 102·91 square miles were completed.

8. *Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Works.*—An expenditure of Rs. 33,586-12-0 was incurred on new buildings, *viz.*, Sandal Koti and Research Institute in Bangalore, while a sum of Rs. 7,725-7-8 was spent on repairs to buildings and Rs. 18,070 on repairs to roads and paths. The total expenditure on miscellaneous works, including improvement of water facilities, amounted to Rs. 4,020-8-2.

9. *Forest Offences including Sandal Damage Cases and Cases of Sandal Smuggling.*—The total number of cases for disposal was 2,008, inclusive of 140 cases of last year. Of these, 1,868 cases were disposed of during the year, leaving a balance of 140 cases. The number of cases of injury to sandal trees reported was 113 and the number disposed of was 153, including some of the pending cases of the previous year. A large number of cases, *viz.*, 240 is still pending disposal and some of them are pending for three to ten years. The reason for such long pendency is not known. Such delays will not only cause inconvenience to the parties, but may also result in loss of revenue due to Government, as it may become difficult to prove the cases after such a lapse of time. Government trust that all the old pending cases will be expeditiously disposed of and that in future no case will remain pending ordinarily for more than a year. The Chief Conservator of Forests may bring to the notice of the Revenue Commissioner instances of inordinate delay, so that suitable disciplinary action may be taken wherever necessary.

10. *Grazing in State Forests.*—Owing to adverse seasonal conditions and scarcity of fodder in certain parts of the State, some of the forests in Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts and all the forests in the Tumkur, Bukkapatna and Madhugiri Ranges were thrown open for free grazing during the year. Besides, lopping of Kamara trees was allowed in three forests of Chitaldrug District. A sum of

Rs. 74,141 was realised from grazing fees and sale of grass as against Rs. 72,809 in the previous year. The amount foregone by Government on account of grazing concessions and free removal of fodder amounted to Rs. 22,147-9-6.

11. *Spike and other Diseases.*—The spike disease continued to prevail in the districts of Mysore, Hassan and Tumkur. No such disease broke out in Bhadravati Division, but Sandal trees are reported to be dying prematurely in this as well as in Kadur Division owing to new causes which are being investigated by the Research Officers. Lantana continued to do damage in all the districts except Mysore, Kadur and Chitaldrug and special attention is being paid to clearing the same.

12. *Sylviculture and Afforestation.*—The natural regeneration of teak was, as usual, poor, while that of the other principal species, such as Honne, Jambe, Beete, Mathi, Jalari and Sandalwood was satisfactory in all the deciduous timber forests. Advance growth of the valuable species in exploited coupes was tended by climber cutting and pruning. In the Shimoga and Bhadravati Divisions, Jambe regeneration was plentiful. In the evergreen zone of the exploited areas in State Forests, the regeneration of ghat species such as Nagasampige, White Cedar, Devadari, Surahonne, Dhuma, Balagi and Kiralbhogi was profuse. Four hundred and seventy-six and one-fourth acres of teak plantations were raised during the year at a cost of Rs. 10,205-12-0, bringing the total area of regular plantations of teak at the close of the year to 12,243 acres. Extensive plantings of Casuarina were done in the Bangalore, Kolar, Hassan and Mysore Districts. Sandal dibbling was done in 15,448 acres and Cashewnut planting in 878 acres. Afforestation work continued on the Chamundi Hill, Gopalaswami Hills, on the Talkad sand dunes, Hulikere Block, the Bababudans and the Nandi Hill. Afforestation of the Ratnagiri Hill near Chikmagalur was taken up and Gold Mohar, Jacaranda and Peltoforum were planted. The camping grounds and the orchards at Yelagunda, Sangameswarapet and Sultanpet near Nandi were well maintained, as also the nurseries, from which a good number of plants were supplied to the village panchayets, local bodies, etc., the Revenue Department and the Rural Welfare Centre at Closepet.

Dr. Wilson, the Cinchona Expert of the Government of India, and Mr. Mirchandani, the Soil Chemist, examined several localities in Bhadravati and Kadur Divisions to find out suitable areas for Cinchona cultivation. Of all the areas visited, only the evergreen forest round about Kemmangundi was considered suitable.

13. *Exploitation of Timber.*—The quantities of timber cut in the forests, brought to depots and sold during the year were, respectively, 8,25,207 cft. 7,50,553 c. ft. and 7,27,899 c. ft. In addition, 54,643 'Ascu' treated Dhuma sleepers and 551 teak sleepers were supplied to the Mysore State Railway and the Mysore Iron and Steel Works. One thousand five hundred and fifty 'Ascu' treated balagi poles were supplied to the Electrical Department. The contract with the Kolar Gold Fields authorities for the supply of timber was renewed for a a further period of three years from 1st January 1938.

14. *Fuel Supplies and other Minor Forest Produce.*—The realisations by the sale of firewood and charcoal amounted to Rs. 1,49,669. Fuel supplied to the Sandal Oil Factory, Tobacco Barns, the Silk Factory and the Shimoga Water Works and other small supplies amounted to 16,962 tons. The quantities of firewood and charcoal supplied to the Mysore Iron and Steel Works were 40,765 and 20,558 tons, respectively.

For the first time, a quantity of 8,898 tons of bamboos was supplied to the Mysore Paper Mills. The lease of minor forest produce for 1938-40 of the different taluks in the Hassan, Shimoga, Chitaldrug, Mysore, Bangalore and Kolar Districts was disposed of during the year and a sum of Rs. 45,504-8-0 was realised.

Building materials worth Rs. 5,919-14-0 were granted free of cost to raiyats for reconstructing houses destroyed by accidental fire or other causes.

15. *Exploitation of Sandalwood.*—The quantity of rough sandalwood collected was 2,252-12-0 tons. A total quantity of 1,953 tons, 1 cwt. and 75 lbs. of good wood was supplied to the Sandal Oil Factory, Mysore, from the several kotis in the State as against 1,834 tons and 18 cwts. in the previous year and the net receipts from the sale of sandalwood oil amounted to Rs. 8,92,139. Three hundred and twenty-four tons and nine hundredweights of good wood and 68 tons and 14 cwts. of white wood were sold in retail, realising a revenue of Rs. 2,00,063-5-6. The total quantity

of sandalwood collected and despatched by the special staff from the forests of Kankanhalli Taluk since 1927-28 to the end of the year under report was 3,114 tons.

16. *Financial Results.*—The opening balance was Rs. 4,02,041-0-7 and the demand for the year, including Sandal Oil net receipts, was Rs. 27,39,670-13-0. Out of the total demand of Rs. 31,41,711-13-7, a sum of Rs. 28,16,861-5-10 was realised and a sum of Rs. 23,707-2-4 written off, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 3,01,143-5-5. The total expenditure for the year under Conservancy and Works, Establishment and Wood Preservation Plant was Rs. 14,08,803-11-4 against an aggregate revenue of Rs. 28,16,861-5-10 leaving a surplus of Rs. 14,08,057-10-6.

17. *F. O. B. A. and other Advances.*—The balance outstanding under F. O. B. A. at the close of the year was Rs. 68,670-2-7 and under other Advances Rs. 1,636-14-8. It is satisfactory to note that the Standing Orders relating to the grant and adjustment of advances are being strictly enforced.

18. *Wood Preservation Plant, Saw Mills and other Industries.*—The Wood Preservation Plant at Bhadravati treated 1,14,679 c.ft. of timber besides balagi poles, sawn timber and bamboos, the method of treatment adopted being application of the 'Ascu' preservative with the "full cell" process. The total expenditure of the plant, inclusive of the cost and seigniorage value of raw materials, amounted to Rs. 1,46,854-1-6, as against the revenue realisation of Rs. 2,37,999-7-9.

The working of the Saw Mill at Shimoga was not so satisfactory as in the previous year. A decrease in the quantity of timber sawn, in the outturn of sawn materials and in the revenue realised, is noticeable. A small circular Saw Bench, an internal Fan Kiln and a small 'Ascu' treatment cylinder were added to the Mill.

The Kalkere Saw Mill was practically closed.

19. *Game and Game Laws.*—A number of areas were thrown open to free shooting of tigers during the year on account of havoc to men and cattle. Twenty-four tigers are reported to have been shot in these areas. A bill under the title of "The Mysore Wild Life and Fish Protection Bill" framed and submitted by the Chief Conservator of Forests embodying the suggestions of the Game Laws Committee is under the consideration of the Government.

20. *Elephants.*—There were 47 elephants under the control of the department at the beginning of the year. One calf was presented to the Bhopal State and another transferred to the Lal-Bagh for joy rides. One elephant was presented to the Victoria Gardens, Bombay, and a calf was sold to the Zoological Gardens at Mysore. The elephants dragged a total quantity 4,71,023 c.ft. of timber and 5,023 balagi poles.

21. *Touring and Inspection.*—The Chief Conservator of Forests and the Conservator of Forests toured for 102 days and 167 days, respectively. The Chief Conservator of Forests inspected four District Forest Offices, all the important State Forests and Plantations and the various forest works in progress. The Conservator of Forests inspected all the important forests, all the District Forests in the circle and the Wood Preservation Plant at Bhadravati. The itineration of District Forest Officers (except those of Kadur and Shimoga) was satisfactory.

22. *Deputations.*—The Chief Conservator of Forests was on deputation from 5th to 19th December 1937, during which period he visited Bombay to study the market conditions prevailing there for Mysore Sandalwood, and then proceeded to Delhi to attend the Forest Conference on the 9th and 10th December 1937. He also visited Dehra Dun to study the recent developments in Forestry.

The two Research Officers were also on deputation from 20th November to 30th December 1937 to study the work carried on at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. Dr. M. N. Ramaswamy was deputed to Bombay in March 1938 to study the market conditions for plywood.

23. *General.*—The Government sanctioned in January 1938 the proposals of the Chief Conservator of Forests to establish a Forest Research and Experimental Station at Bangalore for carrying on sustained experimental and research work on systematic and scientific lines so as to ensure the development of the immense resources of the State Forests in the most advantageous way by finding fresh markets for products which are now going to waste and tackling several other

current problems affecting the department. The institute with its laboratories, nurseries, museum and library is expected to be in full working order shortly.

The work of the department continued to be satisfactory.

M. VENKATANARANAPPA,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

Reviews the Administration Report of the Excise Department for the year 1937-38.

READ—

Letter No. B5-269—38, dated 17th October 1938, from the Excise Commissioner in Mysore, submitting the report on the administration of the Excise Department for the year 1937-38.

ORDER NO. FL. 4317-30—EX. 78-38-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 11TH JANUARY 1939.

Recorded.

2. The Mysore Sugar Company, Ltd., continued as contractors for the manufacture and supply of spirits from the distillery at Mandya. The number of shops licensed for the retail vend of arrack was 536 (532) and the issues to them were 136,288 (130,222) gallons. The issues of rectified spirits were 7,206 (5,669) gallons. The exports of denatured spirits rose from 199,590 gallons to 234,236 gallons. The number of shops licensed for the sale of special liquors, which include jaggery arrack, was 27 as in the preceding year.

3. There were 1,942 (1,949) shops for the sale of date toddy and 372 (373) shops for the sale of *bagani* toddy. The number of toddy-yielding trees licensed both in and outside the State was 2,30,731 (2,24,493). The revenue realised from toddy was Rs. 32,30,993 (Rs. 31,30,659).

4. The consumption of malt liquors was 22,228 (19,195) gallons and of foreign spirits 36,287 (34,255) gallons. The revenue derived from malt liquors both in the shape of rental and duty was Rs. 19,796 (23,731). The number of licenses issued for the sale of foreign liquors was 83 (77). The revenue from the sale of foreign spirits, inclusive of surcharge fees amounted to Rs. 17,110 (16,904).

5. There were 260 (256) shops licensed for the sale of ganja. The consumption was 9,533 (8,755) seers.

Shops licensed for the sale of opium numbered 89 (89) and the consumption rose to 740 (631) seers.

6. Cases reported under the excise and opium laws increased from 4,674 to 4,892, 1,026 (822) being grave offences. Including 473 (629) cases pending at the beginning of the year, the number for disposal was 5,365 (5,303). Of these, 458 (658) cases were placed before magistrates and 4,506 (4,177) cases were dealt with departmentally. Fines or composition fees were levied in 3,921 (3,642) cases, the realisations amounting to Rs. 19,052 (17,692).

7. The total demand under excise revenue, inclusive of arrears of Rs. 1,14,152 (1,44,870), amounted to Rs. 55,18,715 (54,75,177), of which a sum of Rs. 54,20,071 (53,45,791) was collected and a sum of Rs. 2,928 (15,234) was written off, leaving a balance of Rs. 95,716 (1,14,152). The expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,87,152 (3,86,902). The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Re. 0-13-6 (Re. 0-13-3). The amount refunded to privileged inamdars on account of toddy revenue was Rs. 43,472 (Rs. 82,422).

8. Sixteen (20) Chemists and Druggists were licensed to use rectified spirit in medicinal preparations. Twenty-three (25) licenses were issued to chemists and druggists for sale of preparations of opium and seventy-seven (70) licenses were issued under the Dangerous Drugs Rules.

9. The Government started from 1st July 1938 an experiment to reduce the consumption of liquor and drugs in the area served by the Closepet Rural Welfare and Health Centre. They trust that the Mysore State Temperance Federation, who are in receipt of an enhanced grant-in-aid of Rs. 2,500, will intensify their work in this area, and with the co-operation of the Village Panchayets and individuals devoted to the cause of temperance make the experiment a success.